

June 7, 1977

HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTSCountries in Which Some Positive Steps have Occurred:Latin America

Argentina

Government began publishing lists in January of those arrested or detained under state-of-siege powers. Coupled with lists of those released and expelled, a somewhat better accounting of prisoners became possible, although questions exist as to accuracy and completeness of lists.

Government granted ICRC permission in January to visit prisons and prisoners in Argentina, resulting in better treatment of prisoners in significant number of cases.

Released former Senator Hipolito Solari Irigoyen, who had been held without trial eight months, April 30.

Haiti

21 political prisoners were released in March as part of what appeared to be the government's effort to be responsive to U.S. human rights policy. 164 prisoners had been released in December 1976.

Improved conditions in existing prisons in response to 1976 recommendations from ICRC noted.

Jamaica

Released 53 persons held in detention under state of emergency, April 27.

Mexico

Announced that it had stopped legal proceedings against 424 persons charged with political crimes and declared that there are no more political prisoners in Mexico, April 11.

Nicaragua

Warned against human rights violations by National Guard, indicating violations would be punished.

Department of State, A/G/S/IPS/3RP

Change to

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Date 16-IV-77

Permanent Military Court of Investigations freed six suspected terrorists, leaving no subversive suspects in detention, April 18.

Paraguay 92 political prisoners freed between 12/31/76 and 3/11/77, including three held since 1958.

Responding to accusations of genocide against the Ache Indians, COP officials inspected the Ache National Colony on February 16, and announced creation of a new 2,000 hectare colony on February 28.

Last of the four political prisoners of Project Marandu case released on April 28. Case widely publicized in U.S. because of Marandu's connection with the Inter-American Foundation.

Peru Amnestied 314 political and criminal prisoners, April 27.

East Asia

Indonesia Announced on January 31 a three-year program for the release of 30,000 political prisoners.

Africa

Cameroon Expressed strong support for U.S. stand, March 4.

Gambia Charge told that President Carter should be applauded for his human rights stand; President spoke out publicly on situation in Uganda, March 21.

Guinea Released 150 prisoners, January 15.

Malawi Released 200-280 detainees and other prisoners in March on occasion of Martyrs Day.

Togo Released 25 political prisoners, April 10.

Released additional prisoners, May 4.

Sri Lanka

With the lapse of the six-year-old state of emergency on February 15, the bans on a major newspaper and four radical organizations were lifted, and prisoners detained under emergency regulations were released.

Countries in Which Negative Steps have Occurred:

Soviet Union

Moscow CSCE monitoring group leaders Yury Orlov and Aleksandr Ginzburg are smeared by an article in Literary Gazette, signalling possible actions against them, February 2.

Ginzburg is detained, but no formal charges are levied, February 3.

Associated Press Moscow correspondent George Krimsky is told to leave the country within a week. Krimsky is charged with currency improprieties, but his dissident contacts are the real reason for his expulsion, February 4.

Two members of the Ukrainian branch of the CSCE monitoring group are detained. Homes of other members are searched, February 5.

Orlov is arrested, but no specific charges are filed, February 10.

Valentine Turchin, chairman of the Soviet chapter of Amnesty International, is harassed by the KGB and given an official warning to curtail his activities, February 14.

Pravda commentary is implicitly critical of President Carter and Secretary Vance for their statements on human rights, February 20.

Shecharansky is arrested. He is not specifically charged, but is privately described by a senior investigator as an "important state criminal," March 14.

Two lesser Soviet dissidents, Jewish activist Iosif Begun and CSCE monitoring group member Malva Landa, are tried and convicted on contrived nonpolitical charges and sentences to two years of internal exile, May 31.

Friends of prominent Jewish refusenik and human rights activist Anatoly Shcharansky say he has been formally charged with treason. No trial date is set. Shcharansky and others are alleged to have passed defense information to U.S. diplomats and newsmen at the behest of the CIA, June 1.

The Soviets publish a new draft constitution. The section on human rights is expanded, but it deals primarily with socio-economic guarantees. The civil liberties section strengthens the previous constitution's admonition that civil rights must be exercised only in support of the interests of society and the state, June 4.

Poland

Two leading Polish dissidents are officially told they are under suspicion of maintaining illicit contact with Radio Free Europe and an emigre journal, April 27.

A Polish student human rights activist dies under suspicious circumstances, May 7.

Czechoslovakia

Four Czechoslovak dissidents -- three of them Chartists -- are arrested for "maintaining contacts with hostile forces," January 13-14.

Czechoslovak authorities detain several Western newsmen who apparently had contacts with dissidents, February 28.

A Czechoslovak court upholds dissident Zdenek Mlynar's dismissal from his job for participating in the Charter 77 cause, April 27.

Brazil

Brazilian President Geisel renounces the military assistance agreement with the U.S. that was

signed in 1952. The decision follows publication of the State Department's report on human rights, March 11.

President Geisel suspends the Brazilian legislature for two weeks in response to its veto of a government amendment to reform the judiciary, April 1.

Brazilian President Geisel issues a series of decrees aimed at reducing the influence of civilian politicians in the government, April 15.

South Korea

The South Korean government detains about two dozen persons associated with the "Charter for Democracy and National Salvation" issued by dissidents in March. The arrests are probably meant as a warning to those inclined to increase anti-government activity during the April 19 independence day period, April 14-20.

Most of the South Korean dissidents detained in April are released, May 2-4.

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HR - Successes
(tab 2)